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His MAJESTY'S moſt Gracious SPEECH to both Houſes of Parliament, on Thurſday the 29th day October, 1795.

THIS afternoon his Majeſty went in ſtate to the Houſe of Peers, when being ſeated on the throne, and the Commons being ſent for and come, his Majeſty delivered the following moſt gracious ſpeech to both Houſes of Parliament.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is a great ſatisfaction to me to reflect, that notwithſtanding the many events unfavourable to the Common cauſe, the proſpect reſulting from the general ſituation of affairs has, in many important reſpects, been materially improved in the courſe of this preſent year.

In Italy, the threatened invaſion of the French has been prevented; and they have been driven back from a conſiderable part of the line of coaſt which they had occupied. There is alſo reaſon to hope that the recent operations of the Auſtrian armies, have checked the progreſs which they had made on the ſide of Germany, and fruſtrated the offenſive projects which they were purſuing in that quarter.

The ſucceſs which has attended the Military operations in other parts of the campaign, and the advantages which they have derived from the concluſion of ſeparate treaties, with ſome of the powers who were engaged in the war, are far from compenſating the evils which they experience from its continuance. The deſtruction of their commerce, the diminution of their maritime power, and the unparalleled embaraſſments and diſtreſs of their internal ſituation, have produced the impreſſion which was naturally to be expected; and a general ſenſe appears to prevail throughout France, that the only relief from the preſſure of theſe difficulties, muſt ariſe from the reſtoration of peace, and the eſtabliſhment of ſome ſettled ſyſtem of government.

The duſtruction and anarchy which have ſo long prevailed in that country, have led to a criſis of which it is yet impoſſible to forſee the iſſue, but which muſt, in all probability, produce conſequences highly important to the intereſts of Europe. Should this criſis terminate in any order of things compatible with the tranquillity of other countries, and affording a reaſonable expectation of ſecurity and permanence in any treaty which might be concluded, the appearance of a diſpoſition to negotiate for general peace, on juſt and ſuitable terms, will not fail to meet on my part with an earneſt deſire to give it the fulleſt and ſpeedieſt effect. But I am perſuaded you will agree with me, that nothing is ſo likely to enſure and accelerate this deſirable end, as to ſhew that we are prepared for either alternative, and are determined to proſecute the war with the utmoſt energy and vigour, until we have the means of concluding in conjunction with our allies, ſuch a peace as the juſtneſs of our cauſe, and the ſituation of the enemy may entitle us to expect.

With this view, I continue to make the greateſt exertions for maintaining and improving our naval ſuperiority, and for carrying on active and vigorous operations in the weſt Indies, in order to ſecure and extend the advantage we have gained in that quarter, and which are ſo nearly connected with our commercial reſources and maritime ſtrength.

I rely with full confidence on the continuance of your firm and zealous ſupport, on the uniform bravery of my fleets and armies, and on the fortitude, perſeverence, and public ſpirit of all ranks of my people.

The acts of hoſtility committed by the United Provinces, under the influence and controul of France, have obliged me to treat them as in a ſtate of war with this country.——The fleet which I have employed in the north ſeas has received the moſt cordial and active aſſiſtance from the naval force furniſhed by the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and has been enabled effectually to check the operations of the enemy in that quarter.

I have concluded engagements of defenſive alliance with two Imperial Courts; and the ratification of the treaty of commerce with the united States of America, which I announced to you laſt year have now been exchanged. I have directed copies of theſe treaties to be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons,

It is a matter of deep concern to me, that the exigencies of the public ſervice, will require further additions to the heavy burdens which have been unavoidably impoſed on my people. I truſt that their preſſures will, in ſome degree be alleviated by the flouriſhing ſtate of our commerce and manufactures; and that our expences, though neceſſarily great in their amount, will, under the actual circumſtances of the war, admit of conſiderable diminution in compariſon with thoſe of the preſent year.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have obſerved for ſome time paſt, with the greateſt anxiety the very high price of grain, and the anxiety is increaſed by the apprehenſion that the produce of the wheat harveſt, in the preſent year, may not have been ſuch as effectually to relieve my people from the difficulties with which they have had to contend. The ſpirit of order, and ſubmiſſion to the laws, which, with very few exceptions, has manifeſted itſelf under this ſevere preſſure, will, I am ſure, be felt by you as an additional incentive, to apply yourſelves with the utmoſt diligence to the conſideration of ſuch meaſures as may tend to alleviate the preſent diſtreſs, and to prevent, as far as poſſible, the renewal of ſimilar embarraſſments in future. Nothing has been omitted on my part that appeared likely to contribute to this end; and you may be aſſured of my hearty concurrence in whatever regulations the wiſdom of my Parliament may adopt on a ſubject ſo peculiarly intereſting to my People, whoſe welfare will ever be the object neareſt my heart.